Manufacture of Luxury Coaches

1089. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 24th November, 1999 captioned Railway officials own palace on wheels and still cling on to Maharajah life styles;

(b) whether it is a fact that 90 luxury coaches would be manufactured by Kapurthala coach factory at a budgeted cost of Rs. 42.5 crores; and

(c) if so, whemer this is against the proposed austerity steps ordered by the new Union Railway Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Digha-Tamluk Rail Project

1090. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present project cost of Digha-Tamluk rail project;

(b) the actual expenditure so far;

(c) the physical progress of the project in kilometers;

(d) the major milestones identified in the project-schedule for completion of the project; and

(e) the tentative schedule of completion of me project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The present anticipated cost is Rs. 248 crore.

(b) Rs. 42.50 crore till November, 1999.

(c) Formation work has been partly completed in 22 km (16 km from Tamluk end and 6 km from Digha end). 6 nos. minor bridges and the substructure of one major bridge over river Haldi have also been completed. Tenders for balance earthwork, minor/major bridges, ballast supply and permanent way are being invited and will be finalised expeditiously.

(d) and (e) The tentative schedule of completion of the project is December, 2000.

Ban on sale of Cigarettes and Beedis on platforms

1091. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban the sale of cigarettes and beedis on railway platforms and passenger trains; and

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Sale of Cigarettes/beedis on railway platforms/premises and in trains has been banned with effect from 5th June, 1999.

Renovation of Railway Stations in Gujarat

1092. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating construction of new buildings for railway stations in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of railway stations modernised/renovated during the last three years and those proposed for renovation during the year 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work of construction of new station buildings at Gandhinagar and Anand have been sanctioned costing Rs. 46.11 lakh and Rs. 39.58 lakh respectively. The work at Anand has already commenced and the work at Gandhinagar will commence after finalisation of plans and estimates.